



The Blurb

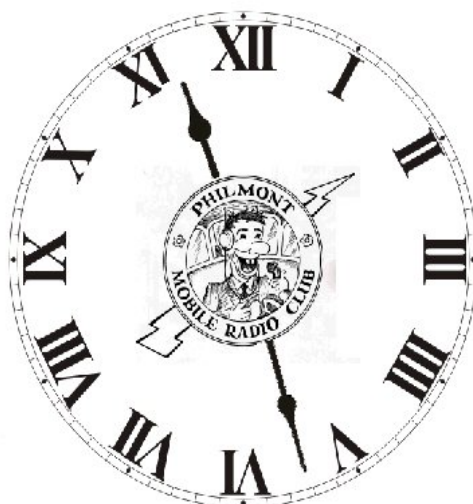


Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
Public Service Since 1949

Volume 57 Number 1

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

January 2007



Hard to believe but...



...It's Auctionfest time again!

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The *Blurb* is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

powered by


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Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net**at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net**at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

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<http://www.phil-mont.org>

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For club information: contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes, and articles that are for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second non-holiday Wednesday** of every month except July and August at

The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill

801 Ridge Pike

Lafayette Hill, PA 19444-1799

All visitors are welcome!

License Examinations

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month (except during July and August) at

Northeast High School,

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M.** **Sharp!** Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q 215 482 0386 (for the latest information.

Club Stations

W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA – **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L

W3AA -Trustee: WU3I

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

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Committees

Archives: NG3P
 Audit: NS3K
 Awards: open

Blurb folding:
 WB3KOJ & WB3KOH
 Directory:WB3KOJ
 DX: N3MT
 Emerg.Coar.: K3HWE
 Field Day: KE3QB

Internet: K3XS
 Membership: N3XKE
 Net Control: KB3IV
 Publicity: W3RM
 Program: Club VP

Public Service: KE3QB
 Refreshments: W3AOK
 Repeater: W3AOK
 Skywarn: WX3PHI
 Sunshine: N3GLU
 Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS
 VE Program: ND3Q
 W3AA Trustee: WU3I
 Welcome: K3CJ.

FCC to Drop Morse Testing for *All* Amateur License Classes

ARRL, NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 19, 2006 -- In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for *all* Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission adopted the long-awaited *Report and Order (R&O)* in WT Docket 05-235, the "Morse code" proceeding, and released it December 19.

The effective date of the FCC's R&O will be 30 days after publication in the Federal Register -- most likely in February. Currently, Amateur Radio applicants must pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to operate on HF. The FCC's action will eliminate that requirement all around.

"This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current Amateur Radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of Amateur Radio," the FCC said. The ARRL had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants only. The FCC proposed earlier to drop the requirement across the board, however, and it held to that decision.

The ARRL has been posting all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "[FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235](#)" Web page.

The FCC's action in WT Docket 05-235 will grant limited HF privileges to *all* Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Once the *R&O* goes into effect next year, all Technician class license holders will be able to enjoy current "Tech

and Technician Plus class licensees should not be retained," the FCC public notice said. "Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."

Highlights of the FCC action:

- End of Morse testing for amateur licenses
- All current Technician class licensees gain limited HF operating privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters (equivalent to current Tech Plus bands)

Technician licensees *without* Element 1 Morse code credit currently have operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. Technicians *with* Element 1 credit (ie, "Tech Plus" licensees) have limited HF privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. Under the Part 97 rules the Commission proposed last year in its *NPRM* in WT Docket 05-235, current Technicians lacking Morse credit after the new rules went into effect would have had to upgrade to General to earn any HF privileges.

Privileges will remain the same for Novice, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees.

Plus" HF privileges in addition to their current VHF/UHF privileges. The FCC *R&O* in the Morse code docket eliminates a disparity in the operating privileges for Technician and Technician Plus class licensees -- something the ARRL has asked the Commission to address following the release of the FCC's July 2005 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 05-235.

"With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician class licensees

The FCC has clarified that there will be no changes in the administration of Amateur Radio examination elements and in granting a *Certificate for Successful Completion of Examination (CSCÉ)* for General and Extra class until the new rules go into effect. CSCÉs are only valid for examination credit for 365 days from date of issuance; applicants cannot use CSCÉs older than that to upgrade. Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) will handle all upgrades through volunteer examiner teams.

Candidates for General or Amateur Extra testing between now and the effective date of the new rules will still have to pass Element 1 (5 WPM Morse code) to obtain new privileges. Those earning Element 3 or Element 4 credit between now and the effective date of the new rules will receive a CSCE from the VE team. Once the new rules are in place, anyone holding a valid CSCE may apply for an upgrade at a VE examination session and will have to pay the applicable fee, if any.

The wholesale elimination of a Morse code requirement for all license classes ends a longstanding national and international regulatory tradition in the requirements to gain access to Amateur Radio frequencies below 30 MHz. The first no-code license in the US was the Technician ticket, instituted in 1991. The question of whether or not to drop the Morse requirement altogether has been the subject of often-heated debate over the past several years, but the handwriting has been on the wall -- especially since the FCC instituted an across-the-board 5 WPM Morse requirement effective April 15, 2000, in the most-recent major Amateur Radio licensing restructuring ([WT Docket 98-143](#)).

The FCC said the *R&O* in WT Docket 05-235 comports with revisions to the international *Radio Regulations* resulting from World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). At that gathering, delegates agreed to authorize each country to determine whether or not to require that applicants demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an Amateur Radio license with privileges on frequencies

below 30 MHz.

The list of countries dropping the Morse requirement has been growing steadily since WRC-03. A number of countries, including Canada, the UK and several European nations, now no longer require applicants for an Amateur Radio license to pass a Morse code test to gain HF operating privileges. Following WRC-03, the FCC received several petitions for rule making asking it to eliminate the Morse requirement in the US.

dropped the Morse requirement for the entry-level Technician's license years ago, and the US Coast Guard officially stopped listening for Morse on distress frequencies in 1993. For all appearances, Morse Code is the dead language of the digital age (it was in fact the first digital language) done in by computers, satellites and the Internet.

Well, not quite. The Coast Guard may not be listening, but the ether still resonates with the conversations of ham operators ditting and dahing

Here's a *positive* perspective on the elimination of the Morse testing requirement from Paul Saffo, a technology forecaster and futurist. He is the Roy Amara Fellow at the Institute for the Future in Palo Alto, California, a board member of the Long Now Foundation, and a radio amateur.

I saw this essay online, and while it was written for a general audience, I thought it might be of interest to our membership as we look forward to the new year and the future. Offering my own 73 to all at the end of my fifth year as your editor – Maggie K3XS

Morse Code - Dead Language, Bright Future

by Paul Saffo K3PLS
<k3pls@arrrl.net>
<http://www.saffo.com>

(reprinted with permission)

Late last night, the FCC [announced](#) that it will no longer require Ham radio operators to learn Morse Code in order to obtain a license. This was hardly a surprise, as Morse has been in steady decline for the last two decades: the FCC

over High Frequency airwaves around the planet. Morse has even gained some new converts, including me. I passed the Morse exam years ago while getting my ham license, but I never used -- or even considered using-- Morse on the air. Then back in July, with full knowledge of Morse's obsolescence, I decided to learn it well enough to be able to actually carry on a radio conversation. To celebrate my modest progress, I ordered a top-line GHD telegraph key (the *Rolls-Royce* of keys) as an early Christmas present to myself. With exquisite irony, UPS delivered it yesterday afternoon, only hours before the

FCC announcement was released.

It is tempting to conclude that the FCC's action spells the end of Morse, but I am certain we will see a very different outcome. Freed from all pretense of practical relevance in an age of digital communications, Morse will now become the object of loving passion by radioheads, much as another "dead" Language, Latin is kept alive today by Latin-speaking enthusiasts around the world.

Latin fans eagerly tick off the practical benefits of speaking a dead language, but of course they pursue their study because it is fun and challenging, gives them a sense of accomplishment and links them to a community of other passionate speakers.

The same will now happen with Morse. Passionate amateurs will gather around this "dead" language, cherishing it, promoting it, using computers and the Internet to teach it, communicating in it and building a new community of Morse fanatics to match their Latin bretheren.

I'll bet the total number of Morse-tappers actually increases and their average age will drop to something less than the entry age for AARP membership. After all, Morse speakers don't even have to leave home to talk with their pals -- they can just switch on their radio and start clicking away.



The Prez Sez

--de Ed KB3IV, PMRC President

This has been quite a year for Phil-Mont. We have experienced the highs and the lows. Many successes and some losses. But we are a very resilient bunch and look forward to the coming year filled with activities and programs that will hold our interest.

Last year's Auction Fest was a success and this year should be as well. Please show up early and bring your items to sell and money to buy. Ham Fest season doesn't start until spring, so this is a good time to pick up something to tinker with.

There will be MS walks in the spring followed by the MS150 Bike-A-Thon the end of September. Our very own KE3QB will be the Commander-In-Charge this year and will be making an impact on the way things are run. Let's all get behind the MS Society and Carmen and make this year's

activities the best they have ever had.

Carmen also wears another hat, that of Field Day Coordinator for Phil-Mont. I spoke to Kathy Orr, the weather guru at KYW-TV 3, and she promised us that there will not be the heavy rain we had last year. Yea, right Ed, in your dreams. It doesn't matter what the weather is, we will have a great time as we always have had.

The past year brought sadness in the loss of Perry Blum, W3PTB and Jim Spencer, W3BBB. Both of them left their marks on the hobby and on the Club. Not a day goes by without one or the others name being mentioned on the repeater.

We also want to send our best wishes to Dusty, ND3Q, who is at home recovering from a harrowing experience and waiting for word when to come down and get your new heart installed. Here is a little inside thing for those of us in the "business".

Dusty, you're going in for a "De and Re". I hope the Doc uses the right Metra Kit.

On a personal note, thank you to all my club officers and board members for your support and tireless work behind the scenes that many are not aware of. We all have made a commitment to our club and the hobby and to those members who are no longer with us. Phil-Mont will continue its success because of them and you.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year.

73,Ed KB3IV

A RESOLUTION adopted by the PMRC Board of Directors

WHEREAS, Clinton R. "Jim" Spencer, W3BBB, was a founding member of Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Jim served the Club with distinction for nearly six decades; and

WHEREAS, Jim was responsible for the design and construction of several important amateur radio stations for the Club, including several mobile communications vehicles and permanent public demonstration stations; and

WHEREAS, among the stations of Jim's construction is the club's W3QV/R repeater system, consisting of a world-class central site with tower-mounted antennas, as well as several off-site receiver relays; and

WHEREAS, W3QV/R is an important emergency communications facility for the Delaware Valley, as well as a central focus of the life of the Club; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors is desirous of recognizing and honoring Jim's many years of service to the club and to amateur radio;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the W3QV/R system shall henceforth be known as "The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System"; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be published in the Club's newsletter, "The Blurb".

Board of Directors Meeting Dec. 6

Attending the meeting were Ed KB3IV, Bill W3AOK, Maggie K3XS, Ra N3FH, Steve WU3I, Al W3STW, Dick W3RM, and Fred WA3KIO.

Ed KB3IV called the meeting to order at 8:00pm.

Dick W3RM gave the treasurer's report. Separate dues notices will be sent out separate from The Blurb. Steve WU3I made the motion to accept the report. Maggie K3XS seconded it.

One new member application was brought before the board for Tony N2ATB. Dick W3RM made a motion to accept the application with Steve WU3I seconding it.

Dick also mentioned there were several large donations to the scholarship fund.

Ed KB3IV reported that Eric N3QV will be finishing out the Director's position formally held by Jim W3BBB.

Maggie K3XS reported that everything is going fine with the Blurb and with the website. She is always looking for articles for the Blurb.

Ed KB3IV reported that the nets are running fine. There will be a schedule for the nets for the next year in the Blurb.

Ed reported that we will be looking for a new meeting place after January with the Auctionfest to be held at the current meeting place.

Roxborough Hospital is being considered and will be brought up at



Directory Update

This year your 2007 Dues Invoice & Directory Information Sheet were sent to you as a separate mailing. Please verify the information and return it with your dues and Optional PMRC scholarship fund donation to: Dick Moll P.O. BOX 88 - Abington, PA 19001-0088. Your early reply will save the club additional expenses and will speed-up the

January Birthdays

- 02 Marlene Spangler (XYL W3DSS)
- 03 Jon Verlin - KA3VU
- 05 Dorene Weiner (XYL WX3PHI)
- 07 Ray Heffernan - N3FH
- 13 Jon Balch - W3KG
- 15 Denise Burstein - KB3ANO
- Karen Lenczynski (XYL KA3EIP)
- 19 Bill Mescanti - K2LK
- 30 Bill Kane - N3OOL

publishing of the 2007 PMRC Directory

Membership Stats

- At press time
- 92 Full paid Members
- 8 Family Members
- 2 Pending Members
- 1 Youth member (under 17)
- 2 Honorary Members

the coming general meeting. Input from the membership will be welcome.

Dick W3RM brought up making Elaine Spencer XYL of Jim W3BBB an honorary member. It was unanimously accepted.

Maggie K3XS brought up a resolution to name the Philmont repeater system in honor of Jim Spencer. Steve WU3I made the motion to accept it. Al W3STW seconded it.

Ed KB3IV reported that the repeater, the offsites, and echolink are all working fine.

Ed also mentioned the cancelling of VE testing this month due to Dusty being ill. There was no other new or old business. Ed adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm. Al made the motion to accept with Steve WU3I seconding it.

Congratulations and welcome to our new elected secretary for 2007: Ra N3FH.

73 de WA3KIO

PMRC General Meeting Dec 13

ED KB3IV called the meeting to order at 7:52pm.

Al W3STW the Judge of Elections announced the slate of candidates which was unchallenged. For President: Ed Masarsky KB3IV. Vice President: Bill Popovic W3AOK. Secretary: Ra Heffernan N3FH. Treasurer: Dick Moll W3RM and Assistant Secretary: Up for Directors positions are: Maggie Leber K3XS, Al Tribble W3STW, and Mike Taraborrelli N3MT. The

secretary WA3KIO cast a vote to accept these. There was a slot left open due the passing of W3BBB. Eric Marano N3QV was chosen to fill in the remaining time of Jim's Director position. Fred WA3KIO was appointed for a one year term for the remaining position. Larry K3HWE is the ARES coordinator and conducts the ARES net on the W3QV repeater. The annual Auctionfest is scheduled for January 10. There will be information in the Blurb. Al K3ZMJ reported on a free course being offered by the Philadelphia Police. See Al for more information.

Maggie K3XS reported the website and the Blurb are doing fine. Maggie read the resolution to name the repeater system the "Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System" in honor of Jim W3BBB. Steve WU3I reported Echolink is working fine. Bill W3AOK reported that repeater is working well.

Ed KB3IV reported that Dusty ND3Q is home from the hospital

and that the VE session for December was canceled. Ed also reported that net controls are running fine.

Ed reported that we will be leaving the Masonic Village after the January Auctionfest. Meetings will then be held at Roxboro Hospital in February.

Dick W3RM reported that dues bills will be going out separate from the Blurb. Dick spoke about Philmont's two current scholarships, the Claude H. Haring Scholarship and the Joanne Hoch Scholarship. The Haring Scholarship was awarded to Benjamin Jack N3VYA and the Hoch Scholarship was awarded to John Stratton AA3SL. John and his father were at the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm and it was turned over to John AA3SL who did a presentation on his trip and school in Australia.

73 de WA3KIO

Jan	7-WU3I	14-W2AJV	21-KB3IV	28-N3OWM	
Feb	4-K3XS	11-WB3KOJ	18-KB3IV	25-WU3I	
Mar	4-W2AJV	11-N3OWM	18-KB3IV	25-K3XS	
Apr	1-WB3KOJ	8-WU3I	15-KB3IV	22-W2AJV	29-N3QV
May	6-N3OWM	13-K3XS	20-KB3IV	27-WB3KOJ	
Jun	3-WU3I	10-W2AJV	17-KB3IV	24-N3OWM	
Jul	1-K3XS	8-WB3KOJ	15-KB3IV	22-WU3I	29-N3QV
Aug	5-W2AJV	12-N3OWM	19-KB3IV	26-K3XS	
Sep	2-WB3KOJ	9-WU3I	16-KB3IV	23-W2AJV	
Oct	7-N3OWM	14-K3XS	21-KB3IV	28-WB3KOJ	
Nov	4-WU3I	11-W2AJV	18-KB3IV	25-N3OWM	
Dec	2-K3XS	9-WB3KOJ	16-KB3IV	23-WU3I	30-N3QV

2m/70cm/Echolink Net Control Schedule 2007

Eleventh Annual Ham Radio "Auction-Fest"

Wednesday January 10, 2007, 7:00pm

Masonic Village, 801 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA.

Not a traditional hamfest, but an indoor auction of amateur radio equipment (and ham-related computer gear).

It's an annual fun event. Bring gear you want to sell, or just come and buy some bargains.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Talk-In: on W3QV/R, the Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System.

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz ➤ 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Sellers may set a "minimum", or starting bid. There are no tables for rent, and no outside vendors. Admission is free, and all are invited to attend.

Sellers pay the club a \$2 registration fee, plus a commission of 10% of the selling price (max of \$30 per item).

Contact: Richard Moll, W3RM

(email: five9plus@yahoo.com)

January 2007 with PMRC

01 Monday
02 Tuesday
03 Wednesday
04 Thursday
05 Friday
06 Saturday
07 Sunday
08 Monday
09 Tuesday
10 Wednesday
11 Thursday
12 Friday
13 Saturday
14 Sunday
15 Monday
16 Tuesday
17 Wednesday
18 Thursday
19 Friday
20 Saturday
21 Sunday
22 Monday
23 Tuesday
24 Wednesday
25 Thursday
26 Friday
27 Saturday
28 Sunday
29 Monday
30 Tuesday
31 Wednesday

PMRC Board meets at WRDV

NCS: WU3I

Auctionfest! (see box at left)

NCS: W2AJV

NCS: KB3IV

NCS: N3OWM

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

The Blue